

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Austin City Council	Item ID	10257	Agenda Number	89.
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Meeting Date:	10/20/2011	Department:	Planning and Development Review
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Subject

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance repealing and replacing Article 4 (Electrical Code) of Chapter 25-12 of the City Code to adopt the 2011 National Electrical Code, and adopting certain local amendments to the Electrical Code.

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

<b>Purchasing Language:</b>	
<b>Prior Council Action:</b>	March 5, 2009: Council adopted the 2008 Electrical Code, as well as local amendments. August 18, 2011: Council set a public hearing for September 22, 2011. September 22, 2011: Council postponed item to October 20, 2011.
<b>For More Information:</b>	Carl Thompson, 974-2887; Dan McNabb, 974-2752; Leon Barba, 974-7254
<b>Boards and Commission Action:</b>	Recommended by the Electric Board.
<b>MBE / WBE:</b>	
<b>Related Items:</b>	

Additional Backup Information

The National Electrical Code provides a national standard for the electrical installations within both residential and commercial structures. The proposed ordinance establishes local amendments to address particular installations and establishes more stringent standards as recommended by the Electrical Board.

Highlights for the Adoption of the 2011 National Electrical Code include:

- More stringent requirements when replacing receptacles.
- Tamper-resistant receptacles will be required in child care facilities, and guest rooms and guest suites.
- Reduced requirements for tamper-resistance receptacles for dwellings.

Highlights of the local amendments include:

- Define uses permitted for type NM cable.
- Provide precise language for locations of service disconnect.
- Reduces the requirements of wiring methods in some applications.
- Language for concrete encased electrodes allows contractors flexibility in the installation of the grounding

electrode due to the high rate of theft on certain types of metals.

- Revised the minimum conductor size for residential wiring.
- Adds a Special Inspections Program (based on available resources) - special inspection program will provide timed inspections to enhance customer service which accommodates electrical projects valued not to exceed \$2,000 dollars.

These changes in the local amendments have a positive impact on housing affordability by reducing construction costs. The proposed changes impacting housing affordability are clarifications and in some instances decrease the amount of cost to the builder by reducing upgrades to wiring and circuit breaker costs.